Disaster Management in Oil Industry

1184. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent explosion at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery complex in Visakhapatnam on 14th September, has thrown up question about the design and disaster management systems in Oil Industry;

(b) if so, whether the refineries and other similar installations, vulnerable to fire hazards, are strictly following the safety measures and other guidelines;

(c) whether any detailed enquiry has been instituted to find out the cause of this fire, resulting in death of 56 persons; and

(d) if so, the findings of such an enquiry and the remedial measures being proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) the refineries are following the safety measures and other guidelines recommended by the Statutory Bodies. The safety design and procedures/practices are as per the guidelines of Oil Industry Safety Directorate and Petroleum Act/Rules. Offsite and onsite Disaster Management Systems also exists at refineries covering various industries and other agencies like District Authorities, Fire Department, etc.

(c) and (d) Gvoernment has on 11.10.1997 set up a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, to enquire into this accident. The Commission has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months.

HPCL Pipeline

1185. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capital structure of the proposed pipeline project of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the debt incurred on this project;

(c) the other financial aspects of this project;

(d) whether any internal financing is there;

(e) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(f) any other relevant details of this pipeline project in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The Visakh-Vijayawada Pipeline project of HPCL which was approved by Government on 20th June, 1995, at an estimated cost of Rs. 521.61 crores, with FE component of Rs. 36.31 crores, is being financed 50% through loan and 50% through internal resources of HPCL. As of September 1997, the debt incurred by HPCL through loans from the Oil Industry Development Board is Rs. 162.03 crores. The pipeline is scheduled to be commissioned within 36 months from the date of Government approval.

Non-Extension of Promotional Benefits

1186. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact what ONGC did not extend promotional benefits to about 400 employees belonging to N.E. Region in disregard of ONGC, R&P Regulations 1980 and the decision of Guwahati High Court of 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details of non-extension of benefits; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing the relevant court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir, it is not a fact that in disregard to its R&P Regulations, 1980